

## Section 8 - Goals and Objectives

The following general goals are those identified in Section 6 - Community Goals. They are identified here, followed by objectives and specific action items. The following format is used in this section to outline the goals, objectives and actions; in Section 9 - Five Year Action Plan, these tasks are organized by responsible party and date for completion.

GOAL identified by roman numeral

OBJECTIVE identified by capital letter

ACTION identified by number and small letters

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GOAL I: IDENTIFY, PRESERVE AND PROTECT THOSE HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE TOWN OF HANOVER.

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A. *Prioritize and establish mechanisms for protecting critical parcels of land.*

1. identify key parcels of land which are highly rated for protection by acquisition or other methods.
  - a. develop a priority ranking system and evaluate all significant vacant lands for value in the following areas: linkage with other conservation lands; water supply protection; wildlife habitat; farmland preservation; scenic vistas; recreation needs.
  - b. develop a computer data base of priority parcels and degree of protection.
  - c. establish/maintain effective communication between Assessors Office/Town Treasurer to identify when priority parcels become available for tax taking.
2. establish a committee responsible for contacting landowners of priority parcels and educating them on alternative methods of leaving their parcel in its natural state in perpetuity or available for public access as appropriate.
3. establish a Conservation Fund to have adequate monies available to protect critical parcels when they become available.
4. establish a land trust in Hanover.

B. *Protect (through acquisition, purchase, gift, conservation restriction, easement or tax title) the town's significant natural areas, and preserve the natural setting of the town's built environment.*

C. *Control growth and location of development.*

1. establish an Open Space Development Zoning By-law.
  2. amend subdivision regulations to provide for and maximize amount of open space maintained near or within proposed developments.
  3. create buffer strips of land adjacent to new facilities to reduce noise and visual impact of vehicles.
- D. Protect farmlands that are in active production or have high potential given the presence of prime farmland soils.*
1. identify candidates for Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program
  2. encourage landowners of farm, forest or recreational lands to enter into Chapter 61, 61A and 61B registration
  3. have action plan ready should priority 61/61A/61B lands become available
- E. Conserve natural vistas at critical locations which contribute to neighborhood or town character.*
1. identify scenic parcels of undeveloped land which contribute to the neighborhood charm and investigate ways to protect them according to A.1, above.
- F. Preserve historically significant buildings and sites.*
1. continue to identify sites of historical and archeological significance and maintain an inventory of these sites.
  2. encourage the use of Historic Easements.
  3. establish a formal History of Hanover program within the public school system to promote awareness of local history.

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GOAL II: PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF HANOVER'S SURFACE AND GROUND WATER

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- A. *Provide long range protection for sources of existing and future public drinking water supply.*
1. identify vacant lands within the zones of contribution of public drinking water supplies and target for acquisition or other means of protection.
  2. maintain inter-town communication to protect sources of public water supply which cross town borders.
    - a. evaluate watershed protection by-laws in adjacent towns to ensure compatibility.
  3. coordinate recreation and conservation land acquisition (between Water Department and other Town entities) to fullest extent possible so as to provide additional water resource protection.
- B. *Establish community education and outreach program.*
1. in conjunction with Water Department, actively educate households residing within zones of contribution to public drinking water supplies about household contaminants, septic systems, and other threats to water quality.
  2. encourage use of environmentally friendly products.
- C. *Identify threats to quality of public water supply and institute measures to prevent contamination.*
1. evaluate and revise as necessary the Underground Storage Tank by-law and guidelines of the Board of Health.
  2. maintain an inventory of the commercial or home occupations that store or handle hazardous materials, pesticides, herbicides or solvents (above established threshold quantities) and develop appropriate protective measures.
  3. evaluate the revised state regulations for septic systems, Title 5, and revise local requirements as appropriate.
  4. ensure local land use control powers are used to the fullest extent possible to protect the quality of present and future public water supplies.
- D. *Develop and implement management plans to improve and maintain surface water quality through management of sewage, sheet runoff, as well as other runoff.*

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GOAL III: INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG ALL SECTORS OF COMMUNITY.

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- A. *Educate the public about local open space and recreation areas.*
- B. *Introduce the Town's natural resources to children through the school programs.*
- C. *Encourage the use of Town-owned lands for environmental education purposes for all age groups by holding nature walks for town residents on conservation properties and sponsoring annual events to clean up the litter and debris in conservation lands, riverways or other environmentally sensitive areas.*
- D. *Establish a Friends of Conservation or similar group responsible for such activities as public awareness, land management, and fund raising.*
  - 1. educate private landowners on available options for permanently preserving their land in an open state (e.g., conservation restrictions, transfer of development rights, easements, etc.)
  - 2. educate public on how local land use control can be used to protect the land, water and dependent biotic communities.

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GOAL IV: ENHANCE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND USE OF EXISTING CONSERVATION LANDS AND ESTABLISH CONTINUOUS GREENWAYS

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- A. *Inventory natural resources present and identify the appropriate level and type of public use for each conservation land.*
  - 1. develop and maintain a data base of conservation lands and degree of public access.
  - 2. develop management plans for all conservation parcels capable of allowing public access without harming environmentally sensitive areas.
  - 3. develop rules and regulations pertaining to usage of public lands.
- B. *Make public aware of location, accessibility, passive recreational opportunities provided, and natural resources present at conservation parcels.*
  - 1. update the Conservation Commission's Map of Conservation Lands. Add information regarding handicap accessibility, parking and amenities available.
  - 2. place signs visible on well traveled ways to identify locations of publicly accessible conservation lands.

*C. Develop and regularly maintain public access on appropriate conservation parcels.*

1. establish a group of volunteers (such as Friends of Conservation, Scout Troops or community service groups) responsible for creating trails and maintaining them, especially in the Luddam's Ford, Colby property, Factory Pond and Forge Pond vicinity.
2. clear, mark and maintain trails and off-site parking on appropriate conservation parcels at a rate of one parcel a year, especially in the Luddam's Ford, Colby property, Factory Pond and Forge Pond vicinity.
3. establish public access easements to existing landlocked conservation lands through Planning Board review of adjacent land development or other means.
4. encourage donations of conservation easements.

*D. Identify potential greenbelts, e.g., along the Indian Head or Drinkwater Rivers, connecting existing private/undeveloped and conservation parcels to create continuous walking/biking trails network. Work towards linking Hanover's trail and open space system to adjoining town's trail networks, such as the Bay Circuit Trail.*

1. identify landowners of affected parcels and investigate methods of protection and public access easement, especially during planning board review of land development plans.
2. educate, organize and garner support of town residents and officials for implementation of a greenway program.
3. identify major open space in abutting towns and develop a working relationship with representatives in adjoining towns.
4. contact Edison Electric regarding opportunity to utilize their right-of-way for recreational/trail/corridor purposes.
5. preserve existing walking trails & wildlife migration corridors while protecting the safety of residents and animals.
6. focus/target trails/potential trails for development to present to town

*E. Inventory conservation lands for wildlife interests and manage accordingly.*

1. Provide public access to ponds, shorelines and forests.

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GOAL V: IMPROVE AND INCREASE THE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HANOVER

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- A. *Investigate further usage of Town held property for passive and/or active recreational purposes.*
1. continue efforts to improve the condition of the current playing fields.
  2. continue efforts to assist in providing for an improved field maintenance arrangement.
  3. continue implementing Parks and Recreation Commission's Capital Improvement Program.
  4. identify Town owned lands that are not suitable for development of any kind (i.e., municipal buildings) due to natural constraints/resources.
  5. improve management of existing recreation and conservation areas.
  6. develop guidelines to prevent conflicting recreational users in resource areas.
- B. *Evaluate existing municipal or government controlled open space areas which are under-utilized for potential use/reuse for passive and/or active recreational purposes.*
- C. *Develop neighborhood parks for non-organized recreational use.*
1. identify small parcels and secure use for informal field games, basketball, tennis, playgrounds, tot lots or walking trails.
  2. encourage open space set-asides for passive and/or active recreational use in new residential developments.
  3. make specific recommendations for securing parcels and site improvements